

**William Peachey to George Washington, November 14, 1757, 19th-century transcription by William B. Sprague, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

**FROM CAPTAIN WILLIAM PEACHEY. <sup>1</sup>**

RICHMOND COUNTY 14th. Novr. 1757

DEAR SIR

I received your kind letter of the 18th September about a week ago, the sight of which caused at almost the same instant both a pleasing, & disagreeable sensation; a pleasing that I had so agreeable a friend & correspondent: a disagreeable that I had once enjoyed the company of that friend, whom I had scarcely known to be such, but I lost the sweets of a Friendship I had long and greatly desired, by being under the necessity of leaving that part of the world, where alone I could meet with that friend. In poor Spotswood I lost a man I loved as a brother. I lament the untimely fate of Bullit. Both of whom I am convinced would have made good soldiers in any other service but that of Virginia where a man must either push himself into the jaws of death & that too without the least hope of redemption, or be subject to the calumnious tongues of a sort of base seducers, whose knowledge does not extend farther than perhaps the information of a parcel of dastardly cowards who thro' fear, Laziness, or indolence, joined with a duly hoggish disposition have deserted the Virginia Regiment & tell a pack of scandalous lies, to screen themselves, which as effectually answers the end, as gunpowder does to throw a bullet out of a cannon. Your letter tells me you wish I had been continued in the regiment. Ay, I wish so too with all my

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heart; at least till I had had an opportunity to convince the world I was not afraid to face the most dreadful enemy of human life, when necessary—Your letter also says. Can't you get one of the additional companys? I believe I could. What then? Can I think that Colo. Washington would desire me to come into the Regiment upon such terms (viz. the loss of my rank) No I believe he knows me too well & is more my friend, for if I should, I should imagine that not only the Officers but every soldier in the corps would point me out for a fool & Bagge. who could no other wise subsist. Tho I confess freely that some of the follies of the army too soon crept on me, for which I now condemn myself, can you think that my Foibles were glaring enough to have subjected me to the extreme ill treatment I met with in the Reduction. I am upon a scheme in which I would take your advice. If I could procure letters recommendatory from the leading men of the Colony with one from yourself to Lord Loudoun, What service do you think it would be of to me in the military Way to the Norwrd. Might I not expect a commission of some sort in a few Months provided there was a small matter of cash in the way; for you must know, that tho' I have a sufficiency to live genteely on at home, my estate would not long hold out in the volunteering way nor should I care to advance much for a commission as I have children to provide for. Your sentiments freely on the matter will be taken as a particular favour. There is a flying report here that some expedition is on foot in your quarter, that Colo. Stanwicks has order'd the Virga. troops to join him shortly at Rays Town, if so, do give me notice as soon as possible, for I am determined if a thing of that kind should happen before I am otherwise provided for, to have one brush with you, as a volunteer. Upon a second application to the Governor about my arrears, he insists that Mr. Boyd has the money for those purposes & he had nothing to do with it, so that if I don't get the cash through their means I suppose I must go without it altogether. N. B. he saw the certificate. I was going to conclude but I can't help giving you a piece of conversation that passed not long since between the Governor & my brother, the clerk of Amelia. says his honour, Well, master Peachey, I am very sorry your brother is reduced, for I understand he was a very useful man, but it was not my fault, I assure you, I could not help it, for it came in turn, & all this he said without the things being mentioned

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or even thought of by my brother. Now what do you think of this? I shall now conclude with this assurance, that I am with respect,

Your most obedt. Servant WM. PEACHEY

1 From a copy.